

Clean Water Act Provisions

A Guide to Sections Related to WQS

Title I – RESEARCH AND RELATED PROGRAMS

- Section 101 - Goals and Policy
- Section 104 – Research, Investigations, Training, and Information
- Section 106 – Grants for Pollution Control Programs

Title II – GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TREATMENT WORKS

- Section 208 – Area wide Waste Treatment Management

Title III – STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

- Section 301 - Effluent Limitations (technology based limits)
- Section 302 - Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations
- Section 303 – WQ Standards and Implementation Plans**
- Section 304 - Information and Guidelines
- Section 305 – State Reports on Water Quality: Transmittal to Congress
- Section 306 - National Performance Standards
- Section 307 - Toxics and Pretreatment Effluent Standards
- Section 308 – Records and Reports; Inspections
- Section 309 – Enforcement
- Section 314 – Clean Lakes
- Section 316 - Thermal Discharges
- Section 319 - Nonpoint Source Management Programs **

Title IV – PERMITS AND LICENSES

- Section 401 - Certification
- Section 402 – National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
- Section 404 – Permits for Dredged or Fill Material

Title V – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Section 505 - Citizen Suits
- Section 510 - State Authority
- Section 516 - Reports to Congress
- Section 518 - Indian Tribes**

Title VI – STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUNDS

- Section 601 - Grants to States for Establishment of Revolving Funds**

**Section added since 1972*

CLEAN WATER ACT PROVISIONS

Summary of Key Sections

- Section 303 Authorizes the States to establish water quality standards and management plans.
- Section 304 Authorizes EPA to set restrictions on the amount of pollutants discharged at industrial plant outfalls. Each industry has different standards. Effluent guidelines are applied to individual plants through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (see below).
- Section 305(b) Requires states to report to EPA biennially the status of water quality and pollution control for all navigable waters in their jurisdiction
- Section 307(a) List of priority pollutants containing 65 compounds and families of compounds - translate into 126 individual toxic pollutants.
- Section 402 Established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requiring permits for all point sources from which pollutants are discharged to navigable waters.
- Section 402(p) Requires EPA to establish the stormwater permit program.
- Section 404 Regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.
- Section 319 Requires States to develop nonpoint source management programs. States are required to submit assessment reports that identify nonpoint sources and the waterbodies unable to achieve or maintain water quality standards; describe/identify State and local programs for controlling pollution; and identify Best Management Practices and measures to control nonpoint source pollution. Also outlines the Federal grant program for the implementation of State management programs.
- Section 505 Gives any citizen the right to sue a discharger for violation of an effluent limit or order, or EPA for failure to execute any non-discretionary duty